



MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1969



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee

Chairman:- G. A. J. Campbell, Esq.

Councillors:- B. F. Chapman  
D. A. Dagless  
Miss. S. E. Manley  
H. A. Orbell  
P. M. Skoulding  
G. E. Tribe

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. Burns, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,  
Town Hall, March. Telephone: March 2331

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1969

Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1969 together with a report from the Public Health Inspector.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee for their interest and support and to my colleagues on the Council's staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in acres .. . . . .	19,786
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate for 1969)	14,080
Number of inhabited houses .. . . . .	5,176
Number of dwellings owned by the Council .. . . . .	1,064
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1970) .. . . . .	£530,041
Amount represented by estimated 1d. rate 1969/70 .. . . . .	£2,125

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population increased by 280 to 14,080. Whilst the main forms of employment remain much the same as in former years it is noticeable that some useful changes are taking place. On the agricultural side mechanical equipment continues to expand and the allied undertakings associated with the preparation and packaging of vegetables has increased. In the industrial sphere useful additions have been established amongst which may be noted concrete pipe making, bag making and metalwork.

## Vital Statistics

### Live Births

Number	(Male 120)	Total .. .. ..	228
	( )		
	(Female 108)		

Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .. ..	16.19
---------------------------	-------------	-------

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	4.82
--	------

### Stillbirths

Number	(Male -)	Total .. .. ..	2
	( )		
	(Female 2)		
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	.. ..	8.69	

### Total Live and Stillbirths

(Male 120)	Total .. .. ..	230
( )		
(Female 110)		

### Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

(Male 3)	Total .. .. ..	4
( )		
(Female 1)		

### Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..	17.59
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	13.82	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .. .. .. .. ..	90.90

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	.. .. .. .. .. .. ..	13.15
--	----------------------	-------

Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	.. .. .. .. .. .. ..	13.15
---	----------------------	-------

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	.. ..	21.74
---	-------	-------

### Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	.. .. .. .. .. ..	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	.. .. .. ..	NIL
Death rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .. .. ..	11.00

<u>Cause of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm - intestine	4	4	8
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	8	1	9
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm - prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	7	6	13
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	-	1	1
Meningitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	-	2
Hypertensive disease	3	1	4
Ischaemic heart disease	22	10	32
Other forms of heart disease	5	4	9
Cerebrovascular disease	11	11	22
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	5	5
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	4	3	7
Bronchitis and emphysema	9	-	9
Peptic ulcer	1	-	1
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	-	2
Congenital anomalies	1	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	1	3
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	2	5
	<u>97</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>155</u>

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups:

Under 1 year	2.58
1 - 4 years	-
5 - 14 years	1.29
15 - 64 years	27.74
65 and over	68.39
	<u>100.00</u>

#### Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	106
Scarlet fever	11
Dysentery	2
Infective jaundice	1
Tuberculosis	1
Salmonella	1
	<u>122</u>

#### Food Hygiene

This demands constant vigilance and receives the necessary attention throughout the year. Details of visits and action taken are given later in the report.

#### Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was reported during 1969.

#### National Assistance Act

One elderly lady was removed to Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech, during 1968 and was still there at the end of 1969.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL OF MARCH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
AND ISLE OF ELY

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	11		
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4			
	45	11		

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	2	2		2	
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)					
TOTAL	2	2		2	

OUTWORK  
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Councillists	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply wholesome premises	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) Making etc. apparel)						
Cleaning and washing						
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks	50					
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
C/fwd.	50					

OUTWORK  
(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August	No. of cases of default in sending required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists to the Council	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
B/fwd.	50					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding etc. of buttons etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolate and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	50					

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1969

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1969:-

Public Health Act	Nuisances)	..	..	..	..	..	178
Housing Act	Disrepair						
Accumulation	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Animals or birds	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Agriculture Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Cinemas	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Petrol	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Noise	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Food Hygiene	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Food Prep. Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Fish Shops & Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Gen. Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	79
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	256
Cold Store	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Market Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Knackers Yards	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Food Vans	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Launderettes	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Meat Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pet Animals Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Poultry Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	645
Scrap Metal	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Tents, Vans & Sheds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Rats and mice (including sewers)	..	..	..	..	..	..	163
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Swimming Pool	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
							1,956

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the various Acts.

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
<u>Sanitary Accommodation and Drains</u>		
Defective sanitary accommodation	2	2
Blocked and defective drains	10	10
<u>Infestations</u>		
Rats and mice (including visits by Rodent Operator)	76	76
Ants etc.	2	2
C/fwd.	8.	90

Factories Act

B/fwd.

Defects found  
90Defects remedied  
90

## Defective sanitary accommodation

2

2

Housing Defects

Defective windows	3	3
" walls	4	3
" roofs	11	8
" floors	3	3
" gutters	5	5
" ceilings	2	2
" copper	1	1
" tap	1	1
" doors	1	1
" waste pipe	2	2

Food Hygiene

Smoking in food premises	2	2
Cleanliness	6	6
Mobile Vans	4	4
Stalls	2	2
Accumulations	1	1
Hot water	1	1
Noise Abatement Act	1	1
	—	—
	142	138
	—	—

Tables of Notices served during 1969

		<u>Served during</u> <u>1969</u>	<u>Complied with by</u> <u>31/12/69</u>
Public Health and Housing Acts	Verbal	27	26
	Letter	9	7
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	Verbal	76	76
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960	Verbal	6	6
	Letter	7	7
Factories Act, 1961	Verbal	2	2
Stalls and Vans	Verbal	2	2
	Letter	1	1
Noise Abatement Act	Verbal	1	1
	—	131	128
	—	—	—

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Under the above Act 166 premises are registered and 45 inspections were made during the year. The following were provided or remedied during 1969:

Abstract	8
First Aid Box	4
Thermometer	4
Lifts	2
Sanitary accommodation (decoration)	1

## HOUSING

It is interesting to note that during 1969 the Council made 15 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders. 2 houses were actually demolished and one family was rehoused by the Council.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during 1969.

## DRAINAGE

Consultants have been employed and have commenced survey work on areas not yet sewered. Their report is expected during 1970.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

- (a) whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity;

Yes.

- (b) where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; and the results of any chemical analyses; information on the fluoride content of the various supplies should be included wherever possible;

The following is the report of the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

"Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1969 on samples from the Board's source-works and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken, and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

A sample taken on the 24th November, 1969, from the 18" main at Marham Pumping Station (Marham mixed treated water) on which a fluoride estimation was carried out, had a fluoride content of 0.02 parts per million (as F). The fluoride content of a sample of chlorinated water from Beechamwell Pumping Station taken on the 29th December, 1969, was NIL.

There were no cases of contamination of the water supply in March Urban District during 1969.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE MARCH URBAN DISTRICT

<u>Total Tests Taken</u>	<u>No. of Tests Negative</u>	<u>No. of Tests Positive</u>	<u>% Negative Tests</u>
55	55	-	100%

- (c) where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including the precautions taken and the number and result of analyses;

The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.

- (d) the action taken in respect of any form of contamination;

There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.

/(e)

## WATER SUPPLIES (CONTD.)

(e) the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (i) direct to the houses, and (ii) by means of stand-pipes.

(i) direct to houses	-	96%
(ii) by means of stand-pipes	-	1.0%

## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is one licensed site in the area for nine caravans and a further three licences are operative in respect of four caravans.

## SWIMMING POOL

A new open air heated swimming pool (110' x 42') was opened in May, 1965 and in addition to the daily checks carried out by the staff 12 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were satisfactory. The water is chlorinated there being a six hour turnover.

There are three schools with swimming pools and three samples at monthly intervals were taken from each school, one sample was unsatisfactory but a follow up sample proved satisfactory.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by the R.S.P.C.A. and myself.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

During 1969 two applications were approved under the above Act.

## RATS AND MICE

The refuse dumps are treated monthly and the sewers are dealt with annually. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible.

Following the retirement of the Council's Rodent Operator, a private Contractor is now employed to deal with infestation generally. A free service is given when infestation occurs in private dwellings and shops.

## PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1928 AND 1936

Under the above Acts 55 licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and 1 for the storage of Calcium Carbide.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

### Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Two slaughterhouses were licensed during 1969 and the number of animals killed during the year at the two slaughterhouses is as follows:-

2 cows, 384 other bovines, 481 sheep and 3249 pigs giving a total of 4116.

In order to inspect these animals a total of 645 visits was required to the two slaughterhouses.

Fifteen slaughtermen's licences were issued during 1969.

Condemnations include the following whole carcases:-

21 pigs and 1 cow - total 22 which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcases brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 1 ton 11 cwts. 3 qrts. 12 lbs.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned  
from 1st January, 1969 to 31st December, 1969

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	384	2	-	481	3249	-
Number inspected	384	2	-	481	3249	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	1	-	-	21	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	24	2	-	-	40	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	6.25	100.0	-	-	1.84	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	7	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.21	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Food Hygiene

The Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- (1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:

Green grocery	5
Grocery	24
Butchers	15
Fish shops	11
Bakehouses	3
Confectionery	16
Cafes and restaurants	5
Ice cream manufacturers	2
Chemists	4
	—
	85
	—

In addition, there are some 40 licensed premises including clubs.

- (2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts:-

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	33
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages	15
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips	11

- (3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:-

Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 8.

- (4) any new educational activity and the progress of established educational activity:-

New posters are regularly exhibited relating to food hygiene and other matters.

- (5) the methods of disposal of condemned food:-

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc. the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by Contractors and processed.

- (6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity condemned:-

Four large quantities of frozen food were condemned following breakdowns in shop refrigerators and some 1,238 items were involved.

- (7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952:-

10 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. All 10 samples were classified Grade 1.

At the end of the year 33 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There are two manufacturers in the area.

- (8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960:-

160 visits and re-visits were made to food premises during 1969 for compliance with the above Regulations. In addition 645 visits were paid to the local slaughterhouses.

## The Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969

The above regulations require meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. Notifications are received from Port Health Authorities of consignments of food to this area which are to be held in cold store pending disposal for sterilisation and in this respect 42 visits were paid to the Cold Store during 1969.

## The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The above Regulations which became operative on the 1st January, 1967 lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and delivery vehicles. In this respect regular visits are paid to the stalls on the market and twenty one mobile vans were inspected. Where contraventions on mobile vans are found the van owner is informed and also the Public Health Department in whose area the van is stationed and this system appears to work very well in practice.

## POULTRY

There is one small poultry processing business where complete evisceration takes place and regular visits are paid to the premises although slaughtering only takes place very occasionally, some 95 birds being dealt with in 12 months. Weekly visits are paid to the local market where poultry carcasses are sold, the carcasses in this case having been 'plucked' but not eviscerated. A joint visit is paid with an inspector from the Food and Drugs Authority to the local Christmas poultry sales.

In conclusion I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation, and particularly Mr. Littler, the Clerk of the Council, for his valuable advice and assistance.

I am, Madam Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON,

Public Health Inspector.

11th August, 1970.



